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Letter dated 25 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the unilateral denouncement by Azerbaijan of the trilateral ceasefire agreement without time limitation, signed on 12 May 1994 by Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia (see annex).*

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Yerevan, 25 April 2016

Today, at the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, Azerbaijan has disseminated yet another provocative letter dated 14 April 2016, where, striving to put the blame on Armenia, it unilaterally denounced the 12 May 1994 trilateral ceasefire agreement signed between Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia without time limitations.

Armenia strongly condemns this step whereby Azerbaijan grossly breaches the May 1994 ceasefire agreement, as well as casts doubt on the July 1994 agreement on the reinforcement of the ceasefire and the February 1995 agreement on the consolidation of the ceasefire. Notably, the July 1994 agreement requires Azerbaijan to "maintain the ceasefire regime until signing of the big political agreement".

In this regard, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs already have expressed their position to Azerbaijan, including at OSCE, in particular stating that the 1994 and 1995 agreements, whose terms do not expire, as before, make up the foundation of the cessation of hostilities in the conflict zone. The Co-Chairs called for strict adherence to the above-mentioned agreements and not to permit their violation. Disregarding this call, Azerbaijan resorted to this provocative step.

It is necessary to underline that the oral arrangement reached in Moscow on 5 April 2016, to which Azerbaijan refers in its letter, was directed at the cessation of aggressive actions unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh and, as the Co-Chairs have stated, to restore the ceasefire regime. It is obvious that the mentioned oral arrangement cannot replace the 12 May 1994 ceasefire agreement.

The 1994 and 1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements have for years served as a basis for preserving the fragile ceasefire. Any harm to these agreements is a serious obstacle for the peace process, hinders the efforts of the Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and undermines regional security.

Armenia urges the Co-Chair countries and the international community to immediately undertake all necessary measures to oblige Azerbaijan to strictly abide by the 1994 ceasefire agreement and to implement its international commitments to refrain from the threat or use of force.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia states that, taking into consideration the possible dangerous consequences emanating from this irresponsible step of Azerbaijan, and as a signatory party to the existing 1994 and 1995 agreements on the ceasefire and the consolidation of the ceasefire, Armenia will exert every possible effort and carry out all necessary steps to guarantee the security of Nagorno-Karabakh and its population.